DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS HARTWELL LAKE AND POWERPLANT, 5625 ANDERSON HWY HARTWELL, GEORGIA 30643-5259

August - September 2006

Dear Friends,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along with the Lake Hartwell Association announces the 26th annual Hartwell Lake Clean Up Campaign will begin on August 18 and conclude on September 30 - National Public Lands Day.

What is it?

The Hartwell Lake Clean Up Campaign is a volunteer clean up of litter and other non-natural debris along the public lands and waters of Hartwell Lake including the shoreline, islands, recreation areas, coves, old road endings, and bridge areas. This year the clean up includes "Operation Iceberg" - a special emphasis to collect white bead flotation from the shoreline.

Why should you get involved?

Our waterways provide many of us with great recreational opportunities like boating, swimming and fishing and they serve as a pleasant respite from our busy day to day lives. This is your opportunity to help by giving something back to the very lands and water that you use and appreciate.

Clean up volunteers of all ages get the satisfaction that comes from preserving and protecting their favorite public places, along with group or family togetherness. Keeping the scene clean creates a safer environment for us, aquatic life and wildlife. The clean up is an excellent activity for civic and youth groups, clubs, neighborhoods, families and friends.

But the benefits don't stop there! The first 500 participants to sign up will receive a sport bottle and <u>all</u> participants will receive a coupon for a fee free day in a federal park. In addition, participants are invited to the **Clean Up Picnic and Volunteer Appreciation Day** at **Big Oaks Recreation Area** on **Saturday**, **September 30**, where there will be lots of food, entertainment and new for this year - activities for children. Each participant attending the picnic will get an appreciation gift as well as be eligible for a variety of door prizes.

How to get involved!

The way the clean up campaign works is simple! Participants sign up (form attached) to clean an area of Hartwell Lake. The area may be cleaned at your leisure during the campaign dates and trash bags are provided. We can assign a clean up site if you do not have one in mind. Upon registering, you will receive more detailed information including safety tips and drop-off locations for collected litter and debris. This year we are offering programs on the lake clean up effort and the effects that litter has on our waterways - give us a call to arrange.

We are proud to have the continued support and partnership of the Lake Hartwell Association (www.lakehartwellassociation.org) in this campaign; they have been instrumental in the continued success of the clean up and picnic. The Hartwell Lake Clean Up Campaign is included in the nationwide program – National Public Lands Day and is also a proud participant in Georgia's "Rivers Alive" and South Carolina's "Beach Sweep River Sweep".

We encourage you to return the enclosed participation form to our office as early as possible to receive your preferred clean up area. Forms are also available at www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell. For more information, call Park Ranger Tanya Grant at 706-856-0323 or toll free at 1-888-893-0678, ext. 323. Make plans now to participate!

Sincerely.

Virgil G. Hobbs III

Hartwell Project Operations Manager